

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>'On the Ball' Campaign</b>
<b>Committee Report Submitted To:</b>	The Leisure & Development Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
<b>For Decision or For Information</b>	For Decision

<b>Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)</b>	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, healthy & engaged communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to Council recreational facilities and protected natural environments which help them to develop their physical, emotional and cognitive health.
Lead Officer	Head of Sport & Wellbeing

<b>Budgetary Considerations</b>	
Cost of Proposal	Not Known
Included in Current Year Estimates	<b>NO</b>
Capital/Revenue	Revenue
Code	
Staffing Costs	

<b>Screening Requirements</b>	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

## **1.0 Purpose of Report**

**The purpose of this report is to update Members on progress in the potential introduction of free sanitary products in sports grounds and public buildings to combat the ever-growing issue of period poverty.**

## **2.0 Background**

In January 2019 Council adopted a Notice of Motion in support of the “On the Ball” campaign. One of the key elements of that notice of motion was the feasibility of implementing that scheme in the Council facilities across Causeway Coast & Glens council area and all council owned sport & leisure facilities.

## **3.0 Current position**

Officers across Sport & Wellbeing and Estates have considered the practicalities and associated costs of providing free sanitary products in its main leisure facilities.

They have engaged with a neighbouring Council who have already trialled a similar scheme in its council buildings – Leisure Centres and Civic Buildings (Derry City & Strabane District Council). Feedback indicates that uptake (with some initial wastage occurring) has stabilised, however there is no way of measuring the direct benefits i.e. helping females of low income to access period products.

Council is in the process of renewing its service contract for sanitary products and has investigated the cost of converting the dispensing machines to coin-free across the suite of buildings where these machines are located.

The table below details where these machines are located;

Roe Valley Leisure Centre	Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre
Coleraine Leisure Centre	Tourist Information Centre, Benone Avenue
Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre	Council Offices Limavady
Jim Watt Sports Centre	Riada House
Sheskburn House	Ballymoney Town Hall
East Strand Sports Complex	Ballysally Community Centre
Riada Stadium	Drumaheglis Caravan Park
Kilrea Sports Complex	

Currently each coin operated machines costs £15 p/a. The supplier stocks each machine and retains all income.

The cost of a free vending machine is £55 p/a, plus the additional costs of purchasing stock.

#### **4.0 Proposed Trial Period**

In order to inform Members on the "...feasibility of implementing that scheme in the Council Offices across Causeway Coast & Glens council area and all council owned sport & leisure facilities", Officers propose a one year trial, providing free sanitary products in Council's 3 major and he 3 minor leisure centres:

- Limavady - Roe Valley Leisure Centre.
- Ballymoney – The Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre.
- Coleraine – Coleraine Leisure Centre.
- Ballycastle – Sheskburn House.
- Garvagh – The Jim Watt Leisure Centre.
- Dungiven – Leisure Centre.

On completion of the trial period, a further report will be brought back to committee for consideration as to whether it is feasible to continue and extend the scheme in accordance with the original Notice of Motion to all Council offices and all sport and leisure facilities.

#### **5.0 Recommendation**

For one year, provide free sanitary products in Council's 3 major and 3 minor leisure centres, in order to assess the viability of implementing the 'On the Ball' Campaign across all Council offices and all sport and leisure facilities.